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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SY-05 MCT-02 SYE-00 USSS-00  
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FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2524

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

*Our Mass*

*4/4/55*

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NEW DELHI PLEASE PASS IMMEDIATELY TO J. BRUCE AMSTUTZ

E.O. 12065: N/A

TAGS: ASEC, PEPR, PINS, AF, US, UR

SUBJ: AFGHAN GOVERNMENT REPORTS ON AMBASSADOR DUBS' ASSASSINATION

1. ON FEBRUARY 27, DR. MOHAMMAD RAFIK SHAMREIZ, DIRECTOR OF THE THIRD POLITICAL DIVISION (EUROPE AND THE AMERICAS), OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, SUBMITTED HIS GOVERNMENT'S REPORT ON THE DEATH OF AMBASSADOR DUBS TO AN EMBASSY OFFICER. THE REPORT WAS SUBMITTED UNDER COVER OF A MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS DIPLOMATIC NOTE, NUMBER 971, OF FEBRUARY 27, 1979. THERE FOLLOWS AN EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF THE DARI TEXT OF THIS REPORT. BEGIN TEXT.

2. IT WAS EXACTLY 8:45 ON FEBRUARY 14, 1979, WHEN MOHAMMAD YUNUS, THE MANAGER OF THE KABUL HOTEL, TELEPHONED ME, COMMANDER OF THE SARANDEY (POLICE), AND SAID THAT FOUR ARMED MEN, HAVING WITH THEM THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR, HAD ENTERED THE HOTEL AND THREATENED HIM WITH WEAPONS TO GIVE THEM A ROOM WITH ITS KEY.

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BY MEANS OF THESE THREATS, THEY TOOK THE PERSON IN CHARGE OF

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SHOWING GUESTS TO THEIR ROOMS WITH THEM. THE CASE WAS HANDLED LIKE THIS:

3. AS SOON AS I RECEIVED THIS REPORT, I IMMEDIATELY TOOK STEPS AND AFTER FIVE MINUTES (8:50), THE KABUL HOTEL WAS SURROUNDED BY POLICE FORCES. SINCE THE SITUATION WAS STILL UNCLEAR, OTHER POLICE FORCES, ESPECIALLY THE TRAFFIC POLICE, WERE INSTRUCTED TO SEAL OFF ROADS AROUND THE HOTEL, PLACE ROADS THROUGHOUT KABUL UNDER SURVEILLANCE, AND SEARCH VEHICLES IN THE CITY. THIS WAS DONE TO CATCH THE TERRORISTS, IN CASE THEY HAD LEFT THE HOTEL.

4. NATURALLY, RESPECTED CHIEFS WERE INFORMED ABOUT THE SITUATION BY TELEPHONE IN SECONDS. I, COMMANDER OF SARENDY (POLICE) OF KABUL, ALONG WITH SECURITY PERSONNEL RESPONSIBLE OF THE OPERATION, WERE GUIDED TO THE ROOM WHERE THE AMBASSADOR WAS BEING HELD BY TWO HOTEL EMPLOYEES, MOHAMMED EHSAN AND QAJIR NAMAN. THIS WAS ROOM NUMBER 117.

5. TO ASSURE MYSELF OF THE EXISTENCE OF THE AMBASSADOR AND THE TERRORISTS IN THE ROOM, NEGOTIATIONS WERE CONDUCTED THROUGH THE DOOR OF THE ROOM. WHEN ASKED THEIR MOTIVE FOR THEIR ATTACK, THE TERRORISTS FIRST INSISTED THAT WE INTRODUCE OURSELVES. WHEN THE COMMANDER SAID WHO HE WAS, THEY INDICATED THAT THEY WOULD NEVER STATE THEIR PURPOSE UNTIL THEIR FIRST DEMAND WAS MET. THIS WAS THE RELEASE OF BAHRUDDIN BAHES FROM JAIL. THEY ADDED THE BAHES SHOULD BE RETURNED TO THEM ARMED. TO ALLOW THEIR DEMAND TO BE MET, THEY EXTENDED THE DEADLINE FOR HALF AN HOUR (TILL 9:30). WHEN THIS TIME LIMIT EXPIRED, THEY WERE REQUESTED AGAIN TO EXTEND THE DEADLINE, AND THEY AGREED TO EXTEND IT TILL 10:00.

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6. THE REASON WE ASKED FOR MORE TIME WAS THAT THE PERSON THE TERRORISTS DEMANDED WAS NOT AVAILABLE. HE HAD ESCAPED WHILE BEING TREATED IN THE HOSPITAL, AND HAD FLED TO AN UNKNOWN DESTINATION. BY CONCEALING THIS INFORMATION FROM THE TERRORISTS, AND ASKING FOR MORE TIME, WE HOPED TO FIND A WAY TO SAVE THE AMBASSADOR'S LIFE. WE FELT THAT IF THE TERRORISTS KNEW THAT BAHES COULD NOT BE FOUND, THEY WOULD KILL THE AMBASSADOR.

7. BRIEF BIOGRAPHY OF BAHES. BAHRUDDIN BAHES WAS JAILED DURING KING ZAHER'S REIGN BECAUSE OF HIS EXTREMIST ACTIVITIES.

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FOLLOWING THE COUP OF 26 SARATAN (JULY 17), HE WAS RELEASED, BUT DID NOT GIVE UP HIS ANTI-HUMAN ACTIVITIES AND CONTINUED HIS EXTREMISM. FINALLY, IN 1353 (1975), HE WENT TO THE REMOTE PARTS OF BADAKHSHAN PROVINCE AND, WITH HIS GROUP, ATTACKED A WOLISWALI (SUB-PROVINCE). A LARGE NUMBER OF YOUNG PEOPLE WERE VICTIMS OF THE ATTACK.

8. SECURITY FORCES MANAGED TO TRAP BAHES AND HIS COLLABORATORS, WHO CONFESSED TO THEIR CRIMES. THEY WERE JAILED FOR A LONG SENTENCE. DURING DAUD'S PRIME MINISTERSHIP, BAHES PRETENDED TO BE ILL AND WAS HOSPITALIZED. HE ESCAPED FROM THE HOSPITAL, BUT SECURITY FORCES CAUGHT HIM OUTSIDE THE HOSPITAL. THE KHALQI STATE DECIDED HE SHOULD BE IMPRISONED FOR LIFE. IN THE MONTH OF ASSAD, 1357 (JULY 23-AUG. 22, 1978) BAHES AGAIN FEIGNED ILLNESS AND WAS HOSPITALIZED. THIS TIME HE WAS BEING WATCHED BY FOUR ARMED GUARDS INSIDE THE HOSPITAL. BUT BAHES, WITH THE HELP OF HIS FRIENDS, AND USING WEAPONS, ESCAPED. IN THE INCIDENT ONE GUARD WAS INJURED. SINCE THAT TIME, BAHES HAS NOT BEEN SEEN. END OF BIOGRAPHY

9. USING THIS OPPORTUNITY, THE AMERICAN EMBASSY WAS CONTACTED, SO THAT IT WOULD SEND ITS REPRESENTATIVE TO ACT AS INTERPRETER AND CONVEY OUR INTENTIONS TO THE AMBASSADOR. THE EMBASSY'S REPRESENTATIVE IMMEDIATELY CAME, AND HE WAS TOLD TO TELL HIS AMBASSADOR IN GERMAN TO SLIP AWAY ON THE EXCUSE OF GOING TO THE BATHROOM, AND, IF THIS WAS NOT POSSIBLE, TO

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LIE DOWN ON THE FLOOR, PRETENDING TO FAINT.

10. IT WAS AT THIS TIME THAT THE EMBASSY'S REPRESENTATIVE CAME TO THE DOOR AND CALLED THE AMBASSADOR. WHEN THE AMBASSADOR ANSWERED, THE LEADER OF THE TERRORISTS SAID: "I AM NOT SO STUPID TO LET THE AMBASSADOR MAKE USE OF THE IMPOSTER WHO IS SPEAKING." THEREFORE, THE EFFORT OF THE EMBASSY'S REPRESENTATIVE ACHIEVED NOTHING, AND THE TERRORISTS REPEATEDLY

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FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2525

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THREATENED THAT, IF THEIR DEMANDS WERE NOT MET BY THE DEADLINE, THE AMBASSADOR MIGHT LOSE HIS LIFE. THEY COMPLIED WITH ANOTHER REQUEST TO EXTEND THE DEADLINE TO 10:30. DURING THIS TIME, WE COMMUNICATED TO THE TERRORISTS OUR DESIRE TO ACHIEVE THE RELEASE OF THE AMBASSADOR BY BRINGING BAHES TO THEM.

11. UTILIZING THIS OPPORTUNITY, THE FIRE BRIGADE WAS WAITING AT THE HOTEL, AND SECURITY PERSONNEL WERE ASSIGNED TO CLIMB UP TO THE WINDOW ON THE FIRE BRIGADE'S LADDERS AND EQUIPMENT, AND, IF POSSIBLE, TO KILL THE TERRORISTS. BY FIRING THROUGH THE WINDOW, IT WAS HOPED TO PREVENT THE TERRORISTS FROM FULFILLING THEIR EVIL INTENTIONS, AND THEREBY TO RELEASE THE AMBASSADOR.

12. ANOTHER REQUEST WAS MADE TO EXTEND THE DEADLINE, AND AFTER MUCH ARGUMENT WITH THE TERRORISTS, THEY AGREED TO AN 11:00 AM DEADLINE. DURING THIS TIME, WE WERE CONSIDERING WHAT STEPS TO TAKE TO SAVE THE LIFE OF THE AMBASSADOR, TAKING INTO VIEW THE HOSTILE ATTITUDE OF THE TERRORISTS. IT WAS DECIDED THAT WE SHOULD TAKE APPROPRIATE STEPS. WHILE WE WERE

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WORKING ON OUR PLAN, THE DEADLINE AGAIN PASSED, AND WE INFORMED THE TERRORISTS THAT THE PERSON THEY DEMANDED WAS FAR

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FROM KABUL, AND THAT HE HAD NOT ARRIVED AT THE HOTEL BY THIS TIME IN SPITE OF OUR EFFORTS. WE REQUESTED AN EXTENSION OF THE DEADLINE. THE TERRORISTS AGAIN WARNED US OF THEIR INTENTIONS, BUT AGREED TO EXTEND THE DEADLINE TILL 12:30.

13. AT THIS TIME, WE DECIDED TO DIVIDE THE POLICE INTO TWO OPERATIONAL GROUPS, ONE INSIDE AND THE OTHER OUTSIDE THE HOTEL, SO THAT, IF THE TERRORISTS DECIDED TO SHOOT THE AMBASSADOR, WE COULD TAKE STEPS TO SAVE HIS EXCELLENCY USING SPECIAL TACTICS. FOR ACCOMPLISHING THIS TASK, THREE POLICE WITH BULLET PROOF CLOTHING WERE STATIONED OUTSIDE THE DOOR OF THE ROOM. A SECOND GROUP WAS STATIONED FACING THE WINDOW OF THE ROOM, IN ORDER TO SEE WHAT WAS GOING ON INSIDE THE ROOM. BOTH GROUPS WERE INSTRUCTED TO BE ALERT AND UPON COMING INTO CONTACT WITH THE AMBASSADOR TO WORK ACCORDING TO THE PLAN WHICH WAS EXPLAINED TO THEM. THE BITTER MOMENTS WERE PASSING VERY QUICKLY IN OUR EFFORTS TO SAVE THE AMBASSADOR FROM DANGER, AND AVOID THE ANTI-HUMAN ACTION. WHEN IT WAS 12:25, WE AGAIN REQUESTED A BRIEF EXTENSION OF TIME. THE TERRORISTS RUDELY REPLIED "WE ARE NOT CHILDREN. IF OUR DEMAND IS NOT MET IN TEN MINUTES FIRST WE WILL KILL THE AMBASSADOR THEN OURSELVES, AND EXPLODE THE HOTEL."

14. WE ATTEMPTED TO EXPLAIN TO THEM, THAT WE HAD TRIED TO MEET THEIR DEMAND, BUT COULD NOT, BECAUSE OF THE DISTANCE FROM KABUL OF THE PERSON THEY DEMANDED AND THAT THE DISTANCE HAD CAUSED THE DELAYS. THEY REJECTED OUR EXPLANATION AND DECLARED THAT THEY COULD NOT EXTEND THE DEADLINE. DURING THIS PERIOD, WE MADE CONTINUOUS REQUESTS FOR MORE TIME, BUT SUCCESS WAS NOT ACHIEVED AND MINUTES WERE PASSING. IN THE LAST MINUTES OF THE TEN MINUTE TIME LIMIT, THE TERRORISTS

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DID NOT AGREE TO AN EXTENSION AND SECURITY FORCES, IN ORDER TO SAVE THE AMBASSADOR'S LIFE, TOOK ACTION. TOGETHER WITH THIS ACTION, THE SOUND OF FIRING INSIDE THE ROOM WAS HEARD. THE OPERATION LASTED SEVERAL SECONDS. UNFORTUNATELY, THE RELIEF GROUP, UPON ENTERING THE ROOM, FOUND THE AMBASSADOR, ALONG WITH BLOODY BODIES OF THREE OF THE TERRORISTS. THE OTHER TERRORIST WAS STILL FIRING, BUT HE WAS WOUNDED, AND WAS TAKEN TO A HOSPITAL. DOCTORS TRIED TO SAVE HIM, IN ORDER TO DISCOVER THE FACTS OF THE CASE, BUT THEIR ENDEAVORS WERE FRUITLESS, AND THUS THE LAST PERSON FROM THE TERRORISTS GROUP ALSO DIED. H.E., THE AMBASSADOR, WAS TAKEN BY PERSONS IN CHARGE AND REPRE-

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SENTATIVES OF THE EMBASSY, IN THE EMBASSY'S AMBULANCE TO THE AMERICAN DISPENSARY IN ORDER TO SAVE HIS LIFE. IN THIS WAY THE KILLING WAS ENDED.

15. ON THE SURVEY OF THE PLACE OF THE INCIDENT, THE FOLLOWING ARMS WERE FOUND:

- 1) A MACHINE GUN (CMH) WITHOUT ANY MARK.
- 2) A HAND GRENADE (NO. 36 M).
- 3) A PISTOL (MOUSE KILLER) 777272 STAR, WITH TEN PROJECTILES.
- 4) A PISTOL (CAL. 7.65 MM) WITH SIX PROJECTILES.

16. ACCORDING TO THE STATEMENT OF THE DRIVER, THE CAR OF THE U.S. AMBASSADOR IN KABUL WAS STOPPED IN FRONT OF THE AMERICAN CENTER, AWAY FROM TORABAS INTERSECTION BY A TRAFFIC POLICEMAN. WHEN THE GLASS OF THE CAR WINDOW WAS ROLLED DOWN, THE POLICEMAN SAID THAT THE CAR HAD COME UNDER SUSPICION AND IT SHOULD BE SEARCHED. AS SOON AS THE DRIVER OPENED THE DOOR, THE TRAFFIC POLICEMAN PLACED HIS PISTOL AGAINST THE DRIVER'S CHEST AND SAID, "DON'T MOVE." AT THIS MOMENT, THREE OTHER ARMED MEN APPEARED. THE TRAFFIC POLICEMEN AND TWO ARMED MEN SAT NEXT TO THE AMBASSADOR. ONE SAT NEXT TO THE DRIVER, AND HAD HIS PISTOL AGAINST THE DRIVER'S CHEST. ANOTHER PISTOL WAS HELD NEXT TO THE AMBASSADOR'S CHEST. THE TERRORISTS SAID TO PROCEED TO THE KABUL HOTEL AT FULL SPEED, NOT STOPPING AT INTERSECTIONS. ON THE WAY TO THE HOTEL, THEY SAID, "WE HAVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TAKEN THE AMBASSADOR AS HOSTAGE." WHEN THE CAR ARRIVED AT THE ENTRANCE OF THE HOTEL, THE FOUR MEN AND THE AMBASSADOR GOT DOWN FROM THE CAR AND THEN REPEATED THAT THEY HAVE TAKEN THE AMBASSADOR AS HOSTAGE. THE DRIVER WAS INSTRUCTED TO INFORM THE EMBASSY. THE AMBASSADOR TOLD THEM TO STOP POINTING THEIR GUNS AT HIM, AND THAT HE WOULD FOLLOW THEM WHEREVER THEY WISHED. THE DRIVER PULLED DOWN THE FLAG AND CAME TO THE EMBASSY, AND TOLD THE RESPONSIBLE PERSON AT THE EMBASSY ABOUT THE INCIDENT. THROUGH, GHAFARI, THE INTERPRETER, THE EMBASSY GOT IN CONTACT WITH THE COMMANDER OF THE SARANDOOY ABOUT THE KIDNAPPING. END OF TEXT

17. NOTE: OUR ANALYSIS OF THIS DOCUMENT FOLLOWS BY SEPT. PLATIN

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